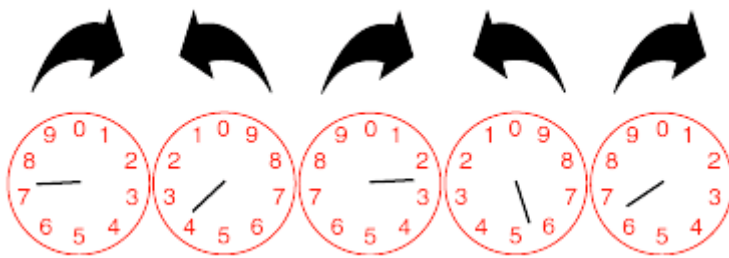


How to Read Your Meter

There are several types of indicators on electric meters. Some meters have digital displays, some have rotating digits similar to a car's odometer, and some have a series of dials.

To read a dial meter, read the dials right to left, writing down the numbers in the same order. In the diagram below, look at the first dial on your right, it's turning clockwise and the hand is in between the six and the seven. When the dial pointer is between two numbers, write down the lower of the two numbers. You want to record the number that the hand has just passed - in this case, six. Continuing from your right, the second dial is turning counter clockwise and is just past the five, so the next number you write down is five. Continue this method with the following three dials for a complete reading.



The correct reading for this meter is 73256.

When a dial pointer appears to be exactly on a number, look back at the dial to the right. If the pointer on that dial has passed zero, that indicates the dial has made a complete revolution and you should record the number the pointer is on. If it has not passed zero, record the next lowest number to the pointer.

Meters for large services may be set to record a percentage of the electricity you use. If so, your meter may have a multiplying factor indicated on the face of the meter, such as "multiply by 20" or "x40". If you have this type of meter, find the difference between your present reading and the following day's reading and multiply that number by your meter's multiplying factor to determine the actual number of kilowatt-hours used.

Calculating Your Energy Consumption

Meters are highly accurate instruments and register the cumulative amount of energy that has been used in kilowatt-hours. One way to monitor your consumption is to read your meter and check it daily or weekly. If you read your meter at the same time each day, subtract the present reading from the previous day's reading to determine the number of kilowatt-hours used in one day. By reading your meter at the same time each day, you will get an exact total of the electricity you have used. By noting high consumption activities, such as air conditioning in the summer, you will know where you are spending your energy dollars. Reading your meter often, along with careful observation of the weather and appliances being used, can help you manage energy consumption and evaluate the effectiveness of appliances.

